(c) and (d) The existence of a large number of competing channels itself ensures protection of viewer interests, which is further reinforced by the existence of laws such as Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Consumer Protection Act, in addition to the MRTP Act.

CBI inquiry against the officers of DD

†3735. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH LALAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI is conducting inquiry against a number of officers working in the Doordarshan ;

(b) the names of officers against whom CBI is conducting inquiry alongwith their posts and charges levelled against each of them ; and

(c) the number of officers out of them still working in Doordarshan ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assets of Prasar Bharati

†3736. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH LALAN :

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that total assets of Prasar Bharati are worth Rs. 35,000 crores and 40,000 employees are working therein ;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard ; and

(c) the total annual revenue earned by the Prasar Bharati during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The actual progressive capital outlay on the assets of Prasar Bharati since inception, as determined by Principal Accounts Office, as on 31-3-97, is Rs. 3245 crores. The total number of employees working in Prasar Bharati is about 41,349.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the total revenue receipts for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were Rs. 678.03 crores and Rs. 711.41 crores respectively.

Financial Assistance to Cinema Industry

3737. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote cinema industry ;

(b) the details of loans/grants provided under various schemes to cinema industry ; and

(c) whether Government instruct the banks to provide adequate financial assistance by way of loan to cinema industry ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) In order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, Notification dated 16-10-2000 was issued by the Ministry of Finance whereunder the "Entertainment Industry including films" has been specified as an approved activity for accessing finance under the IDBI Act. The Industrial Development Bank of India and the Reserve Bank of India have also evolved guidelines to enable banks and financial institutions to fund proposals for financing of film production.

According to the Scheme evolved by IDBI the financial institutions will initially focus on financing film production activity of corporate entities. While there is no upper limit for sanction, the minimum quantum of assistance would normally be not less than Rs. 20 million. The quantum of assistance would not exceed 50% of the budget Under RBI Scheme, Banks may provide finance to film producers (corporate as well as non-corporate entities) with a good track record in the relevant field. Banks can finance up to 50 per cent of the project cost on merits, where the total cost of production of a film does not exceed Rs. 10 crores.

National Film Development Corporation Limited also finances the film industry. The maximum amount of loan given under its loan Scheme is Rs. 25 lakhs or 75% of the budget, whichever is less.